

Message Text

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AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
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SUBJ: INDO-US TRADE POLICY SEMINAR
REF:STATE 143192

1. DEPARTMENT AND THE US SECTION OF THE INDIA-US BUSINESS COUNCIL CO-SPONSORED INDO-US TRADE POLICY SEMINAR JUNE 20. THE DAY-LONG SEMINAR WAS ATTENDED BY ABOUT 30 US BUSINESSMEN AND BANKERS INTERESTED IN INDIA AND CHAIRED BY JAMES HOFFMAN, PRESIDENT, MANSFIELD TIRE AND RUBBER CO. AND CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL'S TRADE TASK FORCE.

2. OPENING THE MORNING SESSION, ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON READ A PREPARED STATEMENT LATER RELEASED TO THE PRESS. HE STRESSED THE INCREASE IN OFFICIAL US INTEREST IN INDIA FOLLOWING THE REAFFIRMATION OF DEMOCRACY THERE. (SEE REFTEL FOR TEXT). PANEL DISCUSSIONS OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND

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THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT FOLLOWED, WITH STATE, NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, TREASURY, WORLD BANK AND INDIAN EMBASSY OFFICERS PARTICIPATING. AT LUNCH ATTENDED BY SEMINAR PARTICIPANTS AND INDIAN PRESS AND VOA REPRESENTATIVES, INDIAN AMBASSADOR KEWAL SINGH SPOKE ON TRADE PROSPECTS, NOTING THAT INDIA WELCOMED PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN HIGH TECHNOLOGY AND EXPORT-ORIENTED SECTORS. IN AFTERNOON, SENIOR COMMERCE,

STR AND GOI STATE TRADING CORPORATION AND TRADE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES DISCUSSED EXPORT PROMOTION, TRADE EXPANSION, TRADE POLICY AND IMPORT LIBERALIZATION. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY TRADE FINANCING PANEL FEATURING EXIM, OPIC, AND FCIA OFFICIALS. THE DAY CLOSED WITH OFF THE RECORD REMARKS BY UNDER SECRETARY COOPER ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

3. THERE WAS ACTIVE PARTICIPATION THROUGHOUT THE DAY BY AN AUDIENCE PRIMARILY COMPOSED OF NON-MEMBERS OF THE BUSINESS COUNCIL AND RANGING FROM BANKERS (CHEMICAL, MORGAN GUARANTY, CONTINENTAL ILLINOIS, PHILADELPHIA NATIONAL AND NORTH CAROLINA NATIONAL) TO MANUFACTURERS (LUDLOW, GENERAL REFRACTORIES, WESTINGHOUSE, WESTERN ELECTRIC, INTERNATIONAL MINERALS AND CHEMICALS AND PFIZER INTERNATIONAL) TO TRADE ASSOCIATIONS, IMPORTERS AND LAWYERS (ASSOCIATION OF FOOD DISTRIBUTORS, STANDARD BRANDS¹). PARTICIPANTS AGREED ON THE GENERAL VALUE OF THE SESSION, THE FIRST OF ITS KIND ON INDO-US TRADE IN RECENT YEARS. INDIAN EMBASSY PLEASED AT THIS TANGIBLE SIGN OF US INTEREST; BUSINESS COUNCIL VALUED THIS USG SUPPORT FOR ITS ONGOING PROGRAM AND THE WIDE RANGE OF PARTICIPATION BY USG OFFICIALS.

4. POUCHING EMBASSY PROGRAM DETAILS. VANCE

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